

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT NO.

50X1

COUNTRY Poland

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DATE DISTR. 30 Oct. 53

SUBJECT Description of Puck

NO. OF PAGES 6

PLACE
ACQUIRED

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NO. OF ENCLS. 1
(LISTED BELOW)DATE
ACQUIREDSUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Puck N 54-42, E 18-25 was a small fishing port about 25 km. north of Gdynia. In recent times Puck lost the importance it enjoyed before World War II. Situated on a small elevation, it was surrounded by open, cultivated fields, except for its northern part, which bordered the sea. Here the water was about two meters deep except for a canal which led from the fishing port Sketch, Pt. 23 to the open sea where it deepened to about four meters. The soil in and around the town was light and sandy. Along the stream Plotnica the ground was marshy and interspersed with unexploited peat bogs.
2. The houses in the town were almost exclusively constructed of brick and timber in the Norman style and were two to three stories high. The cobblestone streets were four to six meters wide with sidewalks only on one side and poorly lighted with electric street lamps. The street names were not changed between 1946 and 1952. The town suffered no major damage during World War II. Few new houses were built even though a shortage of housing existed.
3. In 1952, Puck had 4,500 to 5,000 inhabitants; about 70% were natives of the Baltic Coast (Kaszubi) and the remainder were Poles who settled there after World War II. During the German Occupation (1939-1944) many of the inhabitants were deported but since 1945 some of them have returned and new people have come in. Of the inhabitants, about 20% were fishermen, about 20% farmers, about 20% workers and the rest were officials, and government employees. The local people did not like the newcomers. Almost all the inhabitants were Roman Catholic and attended church services regularly. There was a noticeable dislike of the present Communist regime and grumbling about restrictions, high

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prices, low wages, lack of food and other commodities was heard among all sections of the population. About 40% had radio receivers and about 20% listened to Western broadcasts. The fishermen were still owners or partners of small private fishing boats and cutters but they did not sell the catch privately but had to deliver it to the fish center. The workers were employed in the machine factory, public utility installations, railroad, and small workshops like locksmiths, bicycle repair, etc. There were still privately-owned single handed, service shops such as tailors and shoe repair.

4. The town had the following public utilities:

- a. About 60% of the houses were connected to the public water system and the rest had private wells. The water from the water system was potable.
- b. The town had a small municipal power station. It produced three-phase alternating current at 220 v. About 90% of the houses were so served. Electricity for private houses was restricted between 0700-1200 hours and 1700 and 2100 hours. The use of irons, heating and cooking stoves was forbidden.
- c. There was no gas available in Puck.
- d. The town had a sewerage system but only 60% of the houses were serviced. The sewage was drained to the sea.
- e. There were about 60 subscribers to the local telephone service; mostly government offices and state-owned shops. It was very difficult to obtain a telephone in a private home because of the serious lack of telephone equipment.
- f. The one post office was on Szkolna Street. There were no restrictions on sending telegrams from the post office and no identification was needed.
- g. In addition, there was one hospital, one general school (11 grades), one trade school, and one Catholic Church.
- h. Food was available in the state-owned shops and cooperatives but some agricultural products and milk could also be obtained illegally from the farmers. The state-owned shops and cooperatives were in and around the market place, Sketch, Pt. 14. The small municipal slaughter house supplied meat for the town and for the Hel peninsula. The surplus was sent to Gdynia.

5. The only factory was the state-owned Machine Factory and Foundry No. 1 (Fabryka Maszyn i Odlewnia No. 1). The head office was at 10 Lutego Street; the manager was WY SOCKI. It had two departments:

- a. The machine factory proper which produced machine parts and equipment, such as fixtures, screws, and nails, etc. for fishing cutters.
- b. The boat building and repair departments were located in the hangars, which, up to 1939, were occupied by the Polish Naval Wing. Small wooden fishing boats and cutters were built here. Repairs were also made here. About 200 workers were employed here; about five per cent were women. Working hours in the factory were from 0700-1200 and 1300-1600 hours, Monday to Friday, and on Saturdays, from 0700-1300 hours.

6. Puck had adequate railway and road communications with the coast:

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- a. A one track railway line passed through Puck. There were about 10 trains daily to Gdynia through Reda N 54-37, E 18-21, about 10 trains to Hel N 54-37, E 18-47, and three trains to Krokowo N 54-47, E 18-24.
 - b. A good asphalt highway about eight meters wide connected Puck with Gdynia through Reda and a gravel highway, eight meters wide, connected Puck with Hel and villages along the Northern Baltic Coast. From May to September a bus passed through Puck from Gdynia to Karwia at about 1000 hours and returned at about 2000 hours daily.
7. There was no municipal transportation system except one old Opel taxicab. The traffic in town and on the roads was negligible; mostly trucks and a few horse-drawn carts which came to town on Friday for market day. There was no organized communication by sea to or from Puck. One could hire a fishing boat to go out in the harbor three or four kilometers but only with a pass from military border guards.
 8. There were only two small detachments stationed at Puck, one from the Navy and one from the WOP:
 - a. The naval detachment known as the First Observation and Communication Sector-Puck (1-szy Odcinek Łączności i Obserwacji) consisted of five officers and about 50 seamen. This was the headquarters and was equipped with a radio station which controlled observation posts in Rozewie N 54-50, E 18-20 and Biala Gora N 54-50, E 17-50.
 - b. The Military Border Guard Post (Placówka Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza) consisted of two officers and about 40 men. It was responsible for patrolling the so-called frontier zone - an area extending from the Reda-Polchowo Canal up to but not including Wielka Wies N 54-47, E 18-24 and from the coast to a depth of seven kilometers inland. There were two-man patrols either on foot or on horseback. Neither the naval detachment nor the WOP had any boats.
 9. Puck was situated in the so-called frontier zone and for this reason all persons coming from the outside had to obtain in advance (at the place of their residence) permission for entry. Upon arrival they had to report to the municipal registration office (Biuro Meldunkowe). It would be difficult to get any lodgings in the only hotel in town, which was controlled by the UB, or to stay in town longer than 24 hours without a permit. The residents had to carry personal documents. Only in rare cases, did the municipal militia or WOP patrols check the personal documents of civilians in the streets. These would be mostly drunkards and disorderly people. Train passengers were sometimes checked by the railway guard who also traveled on the trains. Naval and WOP patrols would check passes of sailors and WOP soldiers in the streets and restaurants every evening.
 10. There was no local newspaper edited in Puck. Copies of Polish and Russian newspapers could be bought at the kiosk at the railway station or subscriptions could be obtained through the post office.

Sketch taken from a map of Puck, 1:25,000, Sheet 30-27a (enlarged to twice its size.)

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SKETCH (Cont'd):

LEGEND

- Pt. 1. Polish Naval Unit Barracks (Oddzial Obserwacji i Laczności No. 1): four-story, red brick building; about 40 x 15 m.; barracks accommodated about five officers and 50 men.
2. Garage: one-story, brick building with plastered walls; about 10 x 12 m., belonging to the Naval unit; accommodated six vehicles.
3. House: one-story, brick, plastered building; 10 x 10 m.; occupied by the CO of the Naval unit.
4. Machine Factory and Foundry (Fabryka Maszyn i Odlewnia No. 1):
- 4a,b,c,d. Hangars: adapted as workshops, where fishing boats and cutters were built and repaired; each about 20 x 40 x 8 m.; brick walls, wooden roof (except hangar (d) which had an iron roof).
- 4e,f. Brick Buildings: about 10 x 12 m.; one-story high; each used as administrative offices.
- 4g,h,i. Warehouses: one-story, brick buildings; each about 10 x 20 m.
- 4j. Way: for launching boats and cutters; with crane, 10-15 tn. lifting capacity.
- k. Foundry: one-story, brick building; about 10 x 20 m.; round chimney stack about 1½ m. in diameter and about 20 m. high.
- l. Mechanics' Workshop: one-story, brick building; about 10 x 20 m.
- m. Administration Building: one-story; brick plastered; about 10 x 15 x 8 m.
- n. Wooden Barracks: about 15 x 20 m.; used for storage.
5. Soldiers Monument: dedicated to the Red Army.
6. Post Office: two-story; brick building; about 20 x 20 m.; gray tile exterior.
7. Parish Church: red brick; about 20 x 40 m.; Roman Catholic.
8. Municipal Citizens' Militia Station and Security Police Post - UB: two-story, brick-plastered, building; about 12 x 18 m.; station accommodated about 10 men; the post was comprised of two men.
9. Municipal National Council and Town Offices: two-story; plastered brick building; 20 x 20 m.; city jail in basement.
10. Municipal Hospital: two-story; red brick building; about 20 x 40 m.; accommodated 60 beds; employed three doctors and Sisters of Charity nuns as nurses.
11. Boat Building Trade School (Zawodowa Szkoła Szkutnicza): two-story; plastered brick building; about 12 x 30 m.
12. Soccer Field: about 100 x 150 m.; with a six meter wide circular motorcycle track.
13. Military Border Guard Post (WOP): two-story; plastered, brick building.

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SKETCH (Cont'd):

14. Market Place: about 70 x 70 m.; with state-owned shops and cooperatives:
 - a. Leather Specialties (Centrala Skorzana).
 - b. Ready-To-Wear (Centrala Odziezowa).
 - c. Butcher Shops.
 - d. Grocery - cooperatives (Spoldzielnie Artykulow Spozywczych).
 - e. Bakery.
 - f. Fish Central Store (Centrala Rybna).
 - g. Hotel and Restaurant.
 - h. Cafe.
 - i. Bookshop.
 - j. Iron and Hardware Store (Centrala Artykulow Zelaznych).
15. General School: four-story; plastered brick building; about 15 x 40 m.; coeducational.
16. Mewa Movie Theater: one-story; plastered, brick building; about 20 x 40 m.; capacity of about 250 seats.
17. Offices of the Committee of Municipal United Polish Workers' Party: two-story; plastered, brick building; about 15 x 20 m.
18. RR Station: (about 20 employees).
 - a. Roundhouse: for five locomotives; brick building; about 10 x 20 x 8 m.
 - b. Main Station: two-story, red brick building; about 15 x 30 m.; two passenger platforms.
 - c. Freight Platform: about 40 m. long.
 - d. Spur Track: led to the fishing port, 7 Ft. 23, below 7; was partially torn up and in 1952 ended at the Machine Factory, 4f, above 7.
19. Municipal Power Plant: one-story; plastered brick building; about 20 x 20 m.
20. Municipal Fire Station: two-story; red brick building; about 10 x 15 m.; about 20 volunteer firemen and two fire engines were in use.
21. Municipal Slaughter House: one-story; brick plastered building; 25 x 25 m.
22. Water Supply Station: one-story; plastered brick building; about 10 x 10 m.
23. Fishing Port: enclosed by wire net, and guarded by one WOP sentry; about 30 small fishing boats and cutters were usually tied up to the wooden quay.

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